

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 /020 W

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2639

C O N F I D E N T I A L USINT BAGHDAD 1299

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC, CPRS, IZ

SUBJ: HAMMER FAMILY

REF: STATE 293453

1. HAMMERS CALLED AT USINT DECEMBER 21 AND GAVE US FOLLOWING INFO ON HAMMER'S GOI SCHOLARSHIP.

A. HAMMER LEFT IRAQ 1946 FOR LONDON TO STUDY AT GOI EXPENSES (ENGINEERING). HE WAS UNABLE GAIN ADMISSION TO A UNIVERSITY THERE, BUT STAYED IN LONDON APPROX ONE YEAR WITH LIVING EXPENSES PAID BY IRAQI EMBASSY LONDON.

B) HAMMER DEPARTED LONDON 1947 WITH U.S. STUDENT VISA FOR STUDY AT DENVER UNIVERSITY. HE CONTINUED RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM IRAQI EMBASSY WASHINGTON DURING THIS PERIOD. HAMMER MARRIED 1948. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HAMMER HAD RUN-IN WITH DEAN FOR FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS, WHO HAMMER SAYS WAS JEWISH. DEAN WROTE COMPLIANT TO IRAQI EMBASSY WASHINGTON, WHICH RESULTED IN REUEST BY IRAQI EMBASSY THAT HAMMER RETURN TO IRAQ. HAMMER REFUSED, AND SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS WERE DISCONTINUED.

C) HAMMER TRANSFERRED TO UNIV. OF COLORADO IN BOULDER WHERE HE STUDIED PART-TIME WHILE WORKING. AFTER SOME THREE YEARS (ABOUT 1952), HAMMER RECEIVED PAYMENT IN AMOUNT DOLS 3000 FROM IRAQI EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDIES AT HIS EXPENSE. WHEN HAMMER POINTED OUT THAT THIS PAYMENT WAS LESS THAN HIS ACTUAL EXPENSES DURING THREE-YEAR PERIOD, FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS FINALLY WITHDRAWN.

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2. HAMMER ESTIMATES MAXIMUM HE COULD BE HELD TO OWE GOI IS DOLS 7500. THIS COMPRISES SOME DOLS 1500 FOR ONE-YEAR'S LIVING EXPENSES LONDON, DOLS 3000 FOR LIVING EXPENSES AND TUITION AT DENVER UNIVERSITY, AND FINAL PAYMENT OF DOLS \$3000.

3. HOWEVER, HAMMER SAYS THAT WHEN GOI APPROACHED HIS UNCLE IN BAGHDAD (WHO HAD POSTED BOND WITH GOI TO GUARANTEE HAMMER'S RETURN AFTER STUDY) IN ORDER COLLECT PAYMENT FOR HAMMER'S EXPENSES, HIS UNCLE TOOK CASE TO COURT. HAMMER SAYS COURT RULED THAT NO PAYMENT WAS OWED DUE FACT GOI HAD WITHDRAWN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT.

4. MFA HERE HAS STILL NOT RESPONDED TO OUR TWO NOTES REQUESTING VISA ISSUANCE FOR HAMMERS, NOR HAS IT GIVEN US REASON FOR REFUSAL. WE SENT THIRD NOTE YESTERDAY REQUESTING REASON. ONCE OFFICIAL RATIONALE FOR VISA REFUSAL KNOWN, HAMMERS CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT.

5. HAMMER ALSO EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT AS TO WHY THIS MATTER DID NOT COME UP DURING HIS 1971 VISIT TO IRAQ, AT WHICH TIME HE EXPERIENCED NO TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES.
WILEY

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